

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 25, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 8, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 8, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. It is believed that this rejection is improper and the claim language is adequately supported, given the specification and the knowledge possessed by one of ordinary skill in the related art. For example, many voice mail systems allow for voice mails to be retrieved there from by simply actuating a single "play-messages" button commonly found on such systems. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of the instant case, Claims 8, 16, and 17 have been amended to remove the word "single" there from. It is believed that Claims 8, 16, and 17 satisfy 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,101 to Jain (hereinafter "Jain"). Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0165894 to Kashani (hereinafter "Kashani").

It is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references, either taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest "**determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers, by the temporary voicemail server (335)**", as recited in Claim 1.

Moreover, it is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references, either taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest "**a temporary voicemail server for** receiving the phone numbers of the multiple recipients, for **determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the**

multiple recipients from the phone numbers, for temporarily storing the voicemail message, and for sending IP packets that include the voicemail message to any of the multiple recipients that have an active mobile terminal (295)", as recited in Claim 9.

It is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references, either taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest "**determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers, by the temporary voicemail server** (335)", as recited in Claim 17.

The Examiner has cited column 2, lines 12-18, column 6, lines 26-67, column 7, lines 1-48, and column 8, lines 1-35 of Jain as disclosing the preceding limitations of Claims 1, 9, and 17. However, it is respectfully asserted that the preceding portions of Jain do not teach or suggest the preceding limitations.

For example, column 2, lines 12-18 of Jain simply disclose "[t]he HLR 107 contains a database maintained by a user's local telecommunications service provider at the user's home location. This database includes information about the user, called the user profile. The VLR 132 is maintained by a telecommunications service provider at the location currently visited by a portable device user and portable device, such as cellular telephone 34D or PDA34E".

Column 6, lines 26-67 of Jain discloses "a network server 306 such as an IP. ... A basic multicast service may have one or more dedicated CPRs which anyone can access by dialing the predesignated number. Alternatively, advanced multicast service may require a CPR created for each user. The CPR is modified to accept and store a message delivery list. This list is a directory of recipient addresses, or phone numbers, to which the message is to be delivered. **The addresses may be entered into the list using a standard telephone (using DTMF tones or speech recognition), or a computer with a modem.** The message provider may specify a list of addresses

to be stored in the CPR. The list may be accessed at a later time for sending future messages to the same recipients

Column 7, lines 1-48 of Jain disclose that “[t]he CPR may be programmed to allow a message provider to store a number of different lists. In this case, the **addresses or, phone numbers, may be entered using a standard telephone**, using identifiers that may be as simple as a single number (i.e., “1” to specify list #1, “2” for list #2, etc.) or spelled-out names (i.e., S-A-L-E-S, B-A-N-K-S) entered from the telephone keypad. Once multiple lists have been created, the user may be able to specify a list of recipients to receive a particular message.” This section further describes security against unauthorized access to the lists, and message delivery.

Column 8, lines 1-42 of Jain disclose that “5. The IP 306 plays an announcement such as “Enter destination numbers and message (line 408). 6. **The message provider enters the message, recipient address list (either a new list or refers to an existing list in the CPR), and other requested information in an appropriate manner (line 410). For example, information may be punched on a telephone key pad using DTMF signals, typed on a keyboard, or spoken (if the communications network has speech recognition capability).** 7. The IP 306 stores the message and places calls to the indicated recipients”. ... If the network server 306 is connected to additional networks 326, such as the Internet, the recipient list may include addresses in different formats, such as telephone numbers, facsimile numbers, or e-mail addresses. Thus, the same message may be delivered to a first recipient as a facsimile transmission over the PSTN and to a second recipient as an e-mail over the Internet. A format conversion may be performed for this service. ... Thus, a telephone message may be converted into text by a speech recognition device. The text may be transmitted as data (i.e., e-mail) or converted into facsimile for transmission. An e-mail message may be converted into a voice message using a speech synthesizer.”

Thus, none the preceding sections of Jain disclose that “determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers, by the temporary voicemail server” as recited in Claims 1 and 17, or “a temporary voicemail server for ... determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers” as recited in Claim 9.

Rather, Jain simply discloses that telephone numbers or addresses in different formats may be included on a recipient list. However, Jain discloses that a user must input that information into the recipient list. That is, irrespective of what type of recipient information is used to contact a particular recipient, the recipient information is entered into the recipient list by the caller.

In contrast, Claims 1, 9, and 17 each essentially recite that a temporary voicemail server determines Internet Protocol (IP) of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers of the multiple recipients. In this way, a caller need only have a callee’s telephone number to send a voicemail message to the callee. It is to be noted that the conversion of the actual message data from one format (e.g., e-mail) to another format (e.g., voicemail) does not correspond to determining an IP address from a telephone number.

It is to be further noted that the Examiner has emphasized in the Office Action that the “Examiner notes that Jain discloses a database of user information which information includes both telephone and email (IP) addresses, and wherein the user enters the message, the address list and other requested information, which ‘other information’ would obviously include any data needed for proper recognition and location of the intended recipient. That noted, Examiner finds that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention of Applicant to use a relational database, wherein the any information entered (i.e., phone number),

would in turn cause an immediate determination of all recipient information including, but not limited to IP address for the same” (Office Action, pages 3-4).

It is respectfully asserted that the Examiner’s reasoning is flawed. If the user is to ENTER the address list and other requested information, which the Examiner has emphasized would obviously include any data needed for proper recognition and location of the intended recipient, then a determination such as that performed in Claims 1, 9, and 17 would not be needed. For example, if the user in Jain is to enter “other requested information” needed for proper recognition and location of the intended recipient as explained by the Examiner, then a determination of IP addresses from telephone numbers as recited in Claims 1, 9, and 17 is not needed, since the user can directly input the actual address to be used. Moreover, Jain does not even remotely suggest determining IP addresses from telephone numbers, let alone that such determination is performed by a temporary voicemail server, as explicitly recited in Claims 1, 9, and 17. This is not surprising since Jain explicitly discloses numerous times that the recipient contact information is entered by a user (and not determined). See, e.g., column 6, lines 26-67, column 7, lines 1-48, and column 8, lines 1-35 of Jain, as cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references, either taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest the above-recited limitations of independent Claims 1, 9, and 17.

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art” (MPEP §2143.03, citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)).

Thus, independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 are patentably distinct and nonobvious over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above.

“If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious” (MPEP §2143.03, citing *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)).

Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 1 and, thus, includes all the elements of Claim 1. Claims 10-16 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 9 and, thus, includes all the elements of Claim 9. Claims 18-20 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 17 and, thus, includes all the elements of Claim 17. Accordingly, Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-20 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited reference for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1, 9, and 17, respectively.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of March 25, 2005 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-20 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the

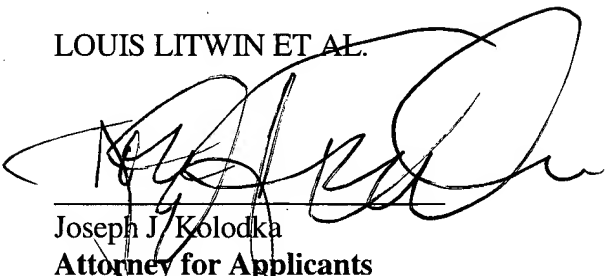
application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS LITWIN ET AL.

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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI
THOMSON LICENSING INC.
TWO INDEPENDENCE WAY
SUITE 200
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312



Joseph J. Kolodka
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39,731
(609) 734-6816